

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 248145

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, CY

SUBJECT: VISIT TO WASHINGTON OF CYPRIOT MP

1. ALEXIS GHALANOS, DEMOCRATIC PARTY PARLIAMENTARIAN AND A MEMBER OF CYPRUS DELEGATION TO 32ND U.N. GENERAL ASSEMBLY, VISITED WASHINGTON ON OCTOBER 13 FOR CALLS IN DEPARTMENT, ON CONGRESSMAN BRADEMAS AND OTHERS ON THE HILL, AND AT AMERICAN HELLENIC INSTITUTE.

2. IN DISCUSSIONS WITH DEPARTMENT OFFICERS, GHALANOS EMPHASIZED THAT GOC AND CYPRIOTS IN GENERAL LOOK TO THE WEST AND PRINCIPALLY TO THE U.S. FOR HELP IN BRINGING ABOUT A SETTLEMENT. IF THIS ATTITUDE WAS TO CONTINUE TO PREVAIL,
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HOWEVER, IT WAS INCUMBENT ON THE U.S. TO INDICATE BY WORD AND DEED THAT ITS INTEREST IN CYPRUS AND COMMITMENT TO ACHIEVING A SETTLEMENT REMAINED UNDIMINISHED. FOR THIS REASON, PRESIDENT KYPRIANOU'S MEETINGS IN NEW YORK WITH THE PRESIDENT, THE SECRETARY, AND CLARK CLIFFORD HAD BEEN MOST SIGNIFICANT AND SATISFACTORY. FOR THIS REASON ALSO IT WAS IMPORTANT TO THE GOC THAT THE U.S. CONTINUE TO GRANT

ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO CYPRUS AND, IN THE PERIOD BEFORE THE FEBRUARY ELECTION, TAKE STEPS TO DEMONSTRATE THAT IT WAS ACTIVELY WORKING FOR A SETTLEMENT. PRO-WESTERN FORCES WOULD THEN HAVE SUFFICIENT AMMUNITION TO REFUTE LEFTIST

CONTENTIONS THAT NOTHING POSITIVE COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED THROUGH RELIANCE ON THE U.S.

3. GHALANOS WAS HARDLY OPTIMISTIC AS TO NEGOTIATING PROSPECTS IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE AND SAID HE RECOGNIZED THAT LITTLE FORWARD MOVEMENT COULD BE EXPECTED BEFORE THE FEBRUARY ELECTION. HE MAINTAINED THAT THE BALL WAS NOW SQUARELY IN THE TURKISH CYPRIOT COURT; THE GREEK CYPRIOTS HAD PRESENTED CONCRETE PROPOSALS AT VIENNA DURING THE APRIL ROUND OF INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS, AND IT WAS NOW UP TO THE OTHER SIDE TO RESPOND OR PRESENT REALISTIC COUNTER-PROPOSALS. IN THIS CONNECTION GHALANOS CONTENDED THAT THERE WAS A POWERFUL GROUP WITHIN THE TURKISH CYPRIOT ELITE--SPEARHEADED BY DENKTASH--THAT WAS A PRIORI OPPOSED TO ANY SETTLEMENT. HOWEVER, THE POSITION OF THIS GROUP WAS BY NO MEANS ASSURED AS EVIDENCED BY THE SOUND DEFEAT OF THE DENKTASH CANDIDATE IN A RECENT PARLIAMENTARY BYE-ELECTION. A FURTHER OBSTACLE IN REACHING A SETTLEMENT, GHALANOS ASSERTED, WAS THE EXISTENCE OF AN UNSTABLE AND INDECISIVE GOVERNMENT IN ANKARA. DEPTOFF NOTED THAT WE WERE LESS PESSIMISTIC ABOUT THE ABILITY OF THE DEMIREL
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GOVERNMENT TO ACT DECISIVELY, AND POINTED OUT THAT THE LACK OF NEGOTIATING PROGRESS COULD IN PART BE ATTRIBUTED TO THE SEQUENCE OF ELECTIONS IN TURKEY, GREECE AND CYPRUS. GHALANOS NOTED THAT MORE THAN THREE YEARS HAD NOW ELAPSED SINCE THE TURKISH INTERVENTION AND THAT ATTITUDES ON BOTH SIDES TENDED TO HARDEN WITH TIME; IT WAS ESSENTIAL, THEREFORE, THAT AN ESPECIAL EFFORT BE MADE NOW TO BREAK THE DEADLOCK.

4. GHALANOS ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE CYPRUS ECONOMY WAS AT PRESENT IN FAIRLY GOOD SHAPE. HE CAUTIONED, HOWEVER, THAT THIS SEEMING PROSPERITY DEPENDED LARGELY ON EXTRANEIOUS FACTORS AND THAT CERTAIN NEGATIVE INFLUENCES COULD LEAD TO BALANCE OF PAYMENT DEFICITS AND A GENERAL DOWNTURN. AS EXAMPLES, HE CITED THE EXODUS OF LEBANESE BUSINESSMEN AND TRADERS WHO HAD FLOCKED TO CYPRUS LAST YEAR DURING THE CIVIL WAR, AND THE ELIMINATION OF A SPECIAL PREFERENTIAL MARKET FOR CYPRIOT GOODS IN THE U.K. AS A RESULT OF THE EC/CYPRUS AGREEMENT.

5. GHALANOS ECHOED FINANCE MINISTER PATSALIDES' RECENT CLAIM THAT, DESPITE RELATIVE ECONOMIC PROSPERITY, CYPRUS

STILL NEEDED OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE IN CARING FOR REFUGEES. MUCH REMAINED TO BE DONE TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE HOUSING FOR THE THOUSANDS STILL LIVING IN ENCAMPMENTS. U.S. AID WAS ALSO POLITICALLY IMPORTANT IN ENABLING PRO-WESTERN FORCES ON THE ISLAND TO COUNTER LEFTIST ARGUMENTS THAT TIES WITH

THE WEST WERE OF NO BENEFIT TO CYPRUS. BOTH GHALANOS AND AMBASSADOR DIMITROU, WHO WAS PRESENT FOR MEETINGS IN THE DEPARTMENT, AGREED WITH DEPTOFF'S COMMENT THAT GOC WOULD BE WISE, SHOULD IT DESIRE FURTHER ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, TO GIVE GREATER PUBLIC ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO THE AID IT HAD ALREADY RECEIVED FROM U.S. THEY INDICATED THAT STEPS WERE ALREADY BEING TAKEN IN THIS DIRECTION.

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6. AMBASSADOR DIMITRIOU TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO NOTE THAT HE HAD BEEN ASKED BY FOREIGN MINISTRY TO RAISE IN LOW-KEY MANNER CYPRIOT UNHAPPINESS WITH FORM LETTER THAT DEPARTMENT HAD BEEN SENDING OUT IN RESPONSE TO PUBLIC INQUIRIES ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN CYPRUS (STATE 221661). THIS LETTER HAD BEEN INCORRECT, GOC FELT, IN THAT IT HAD EQUATED TURKISH ATROCITIES COMMITTED IN 1974 WITH EVENTS OF THE 1960'S, WHICH WERE OF A WHOLLY LESSER ORDER OF MAGNITUDE. DEPTOFF REPLIED THAT WE THOUGHT LETTER WAS BALANCED AND ACCURATE, BUT NOTED THAT LETTER HAD BEEN WRITTEN IN RESPONSE TO SPECIFIC SET OF INQUIRIES AND THAT IT WAS NO LONGER BEING USED. VANCE

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 16-Oct-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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TAGS: PGOV, OVIP, PDEV, CY, US, UN, (GHALANOS, ALEXIS)
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